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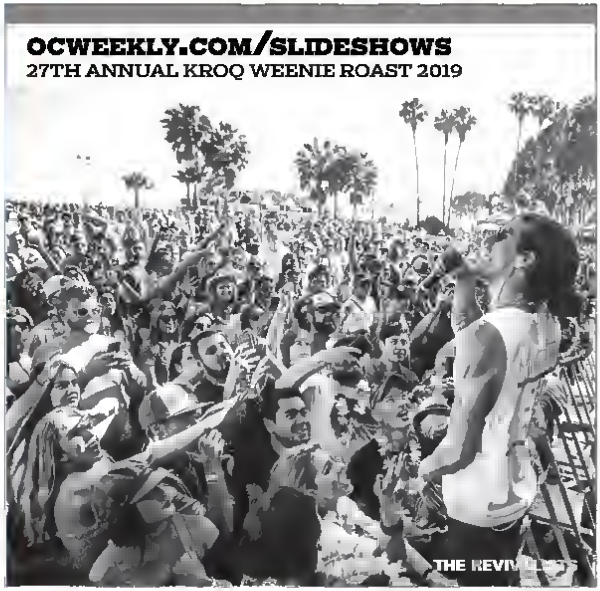
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ORANGE FEATHERS »



FELIPE FLORES

OC WEEKLY.

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"R. Scott Moxley: CNN-featured investigative reporter ... WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED? THE OC RACIST, WHO HATES EVERYTHING AMERICAN AND IS ANTI-POLICE, IS POSTING BULLSHIT LIKE THIS!!!"

—Tim Sheridan, commenting on Moxley's "In Illegal Jail Call Monitoring Mess, OC Grand Jury Proves Worthless" (May 31)

We respond: Thanks, Tim. Our pay raises are based on how many rants in ALL CAPS we get from crackpots.

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COURTESY OF THE HERITAGE MUSEUM OF ORANGE COUNTY

History Lesson

Santa Ana's rich past is not lost on students who collaborated on Heritage Museum mural

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Art students from local high schools are busy applying the finishing touches to a mural at the Heritage Museum of Orange County that's as grand as Santa Ana's 150-year history. With a picture of Old Santa Ana City Hall taped to a brick wall, they fill in the white beards of the guards who flank two pilasters framing the entrance to the historic building.

Since September, many of the teenagers from Valley and Godinez high schools have spent their afternoons working with muralists Abram Moya and Moises Camacho on the project, one that finally wrapped up by sundown.

"Being young, you really don't know much about the history of Santa Ana," says Adamaris Gasca, a Godinez High School student going into 11th grade. "Being part of the mural introduced us to the origins of the city and how it has developed."

The mural was unveiled to the community June 7 during a reception at the museum.

The project started with Kevin Cabrera, the museum's executive director, wanting to transform the beige wall shared with Godinez High School into an artistic history lesson, one with Santa Ana's sesquicentennial in mind. He then helped to recruit Camacho and Moya to bring his vision to fruition.

Camacho didn't think the project would be so grand at first, but then he saw the big brick wall of a canvas before him. The artist had worked with Moya before, including on downtown Santa Ana's *La Madre Naturaleza (Mother Nature)* mural across from the Church of Scientology building.

"Art is something collective," says Camacho, wearing a bib apron stained with paint. "We always try to involve the community in general in the creative process, but in this case, we reached out to high schools."

In working with students, the two muralists began with a workshop on perspective, an art technique that provides dimensions of depth and space. They proved to be apt pupils who stayed through the duration of the project.

"We thought a lot of them were going to drop out," says Moya, "but a lot of them continued."

When the mural was all but finished, Cabrera was given the opportunity to expand on 150 years of Santa Ana history and beyond. "It's really hard to overlook the diversity," he says. "When you look at the mural, especially some of the buildings, it helps tell the stories of certain communities."

Aside from familiar downtown sites such as the Old Orange County Courthouse and Old Santa Ana City Hall, the artwork includes structures such as the segregated Fremont Mexican school and Second Baptist Church, Orange County's first black congregation, a building that still stands.

And then, of course, there are the eight profiles that emerge from Santa Ana's natural history into its human one. From left to right, the mural features Spanish explorer Gaspar de Portola, city father William Spurgeon, Mexican landowner Zenobia Yorba, school-segregation fighter Virginia Guzman, historical preservationist Adeline Walker, black-history curator Harriet Tyler, civil-rights activist the Reverend Norman Corbin, and Palestinian American activist Alex Odeh.

Pointing to Corbin's portrait, Cabrera explains, "He was a huge leader within the black community, but he also was really engaged in the Latino community. He spoke fluent Spanish."

The mural also pays homage to the Tongva tribe, the area's indigenous people.

Cabrera also highlights another subtle detail in the mural: a Pacific Electric Railway Co. red car stopping right before Old Santa Ana City Hall. That's meant to symbolize how the streetcars brought new people into the city in 1905, only to have its Chinatown burn down a year later.

In addition to apprenticing under accomplished muralists, students absorbed the details as they painted their city's past.

"I was really interested to learn that we had segregated schools here," says Katrina Mena, a Godinez High student entering 11th grade. "I would have never thought that would happen here."

Another portrait off to the right side of the mural features the late Emigdio Vasquez, the godfather of Chicano art. Moya worked with Vasquez and called him an inspiration for the project. His likeness holds a paintbrush in hand as if ready to pass it on to the next generation.

While working on the mural, Moya befriended Tai Nguyen, whom he dubbed "Señor Nguyen." The graduating senior from Valley High helped to bring many of the portraits to life. "Each of them has its own stories," says Nguyen, who hopes to become an art teacher one day. He's happy to be finished with the mural but expresses some regret that the experience is coming to an end.

It's a sentiment shared by Cynthia Salazar, a Godinez High student entering her junior year. "It's bittersweet because you know how much you've worked and you really want to see it finished," she says. "At the same time, it's become such a big part of our lives that it's sad to be finished."

Cabrera wrestled with names for the mural before deciding on *Siempre Santa Ana*, explaining that the art "tells the story of struggle, pride and success."

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

Santa Ana's 150-year anniversary exhibit and Siempre Santa Ana *can be viewed at Heritage Museum of Orange County, 3101 W. Harvard St., Santa Ana. Free.*

» GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN



GABRIEL SAN ROMAN

Gayest Place On Earth?

These days, Disneyland is getting gay. The Happiest Place on Earth enjoys a reputation as a gay-friendly employer and a safe space for same-sex couples to enjoy the park, especially during unofficial "Gay Days" organized by Disney fans.

And the Mouse House is edging closer to embracing Pride as part of the magic.

During Pride month, the company is donating 10 percent of the profits from its Rainbow Disney Collection to GLSEN, a nonprofit fighting against LGBT bullying in schools. Disneyland Paris went a step further by hosting an official Magical Pride Parade this month, raising the notion that the Anaheim and Orlando parks will follow suit. It's enough to ignite a flurry of anti-LGBT online petitions decrying Disney's theme parks as no longer "family-friendly."

But the Mouse is getting pelted by all sides. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) dinged Disney in an annual report for not having any openly LGBT characters in films released last year. And then there's local Anaheim politics, where Disney's recent record is a curious case. They bankrolled Jordan Brandman, Anaheim's first openly gay city councilman, last year, but the Walt Disney Co. is also listed as a client of FSB Core Strategies, which is headed by Jeff Flint, the lobbyist behind returning the city to a Disney-friendly council majority.

In 2008, Flint served as campaign manager for "Yes on Prop. 8" alongside Frank Schubert, even telling the *Los Angeles Times* that year, "I think the 'No on 8' forces have devolved into mob justice." Flint and Schubert's efforts to ban same-sex marriage by ballot initiative proved victorious, but the pair split from their corporate PR firm amid whispers that Schubert's anti-gay reputation scared away clients. In rebranding as FSB Core Strategies, Flint hasn't publicly disavowed his Proposition 8 role. But the firm distanced itself from its past in assembling an impressive corporate clientele, including Disney, which filed an amicus brief challenging the proposition's constitutionality alongside the Defense of Marriage Act.

So, is Disneyland the Gayest Place On Earth? Not yet!

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HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Tinkle Patrol



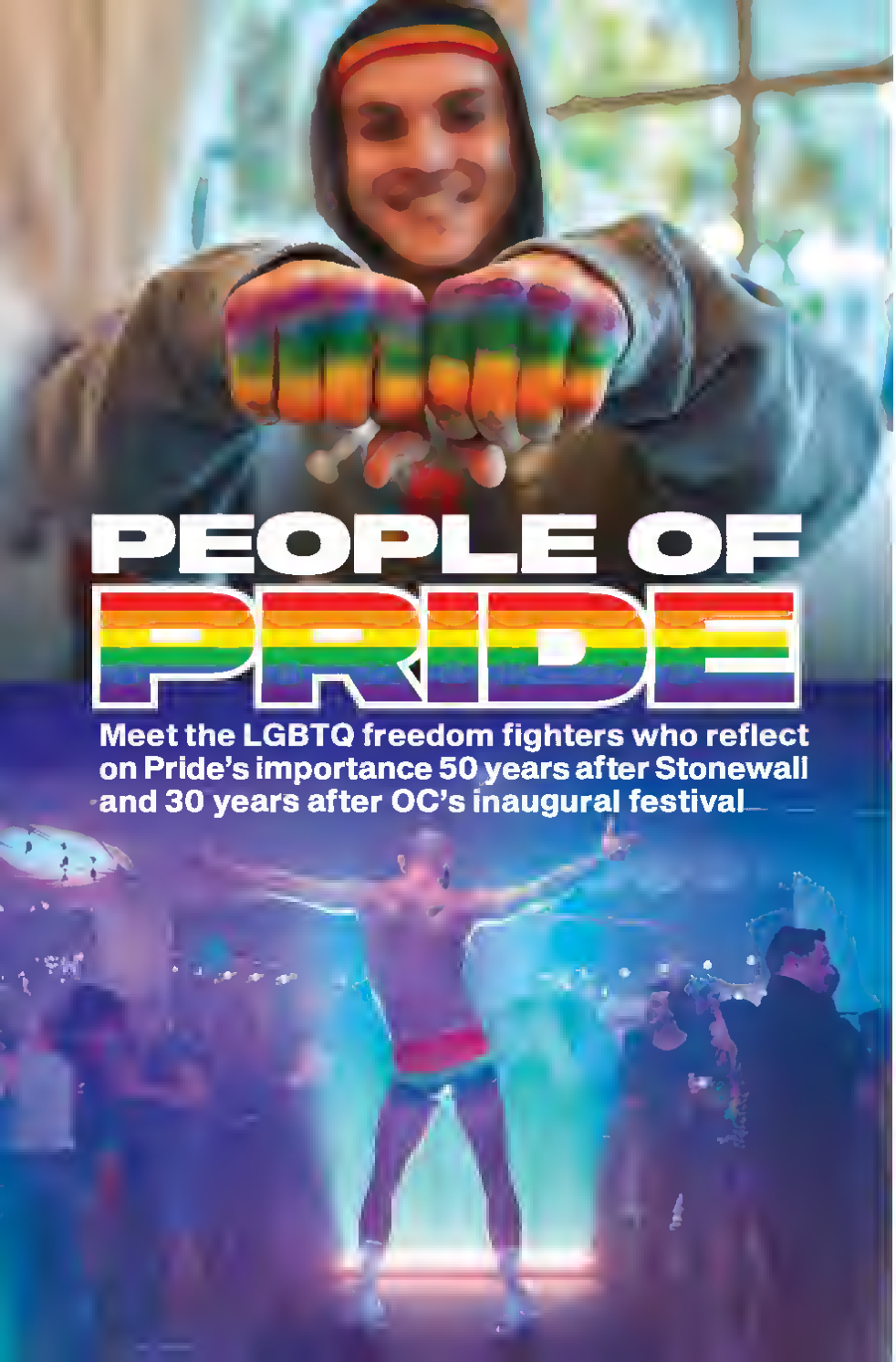
BOB AUL

You are the Orange County sheriff's deputy standing outside your patrol SUV as your partner entered a home on what appeared to be official business. You stood there, ever vigilant, professional and thirsty! Man, you were just tearing up that Big Gulp. A minute or two passed, and then you had to pee. You looked around, and though you didn't seem to see anyone, you must have realized you were too exposed. So you ducked behind the car door and peed into the cup you had just emptied. You then emptied the cup into my neighbor's planter. I never told my neighbor what you did, even after his plant died.

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly* 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com







PEOPLE OF PRIDE

Meet the LGBTQ freedom fighters who reflect on Pride's importance 50 years after Stonewall and 30 years after OC's inaugural festival

The first Orange County Pride Cultural Festival was a rather small affair in Santa Ana during the summer of 1989, but the event's roots actually date back 20 years earlier—to New York City. A police raid of Greenwich Village's Stonewall Inn in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, led to spontaneous and violent demonstrations by members of the gay community. Those events 50 years ago led to the creation of Pride Month, as well as annual celebrations across the country, during which rainbow-colored LGBT liberation flags proudly wave.

However, the first OC Pride, like Stonewall, was marred by violence—not from attendees, but from anti-LGBTQ goons who crashed the party. Law enforcement ordered Pride organizers to lock the festival gates temporarily as they considered shutting down the event. Attendees waited it out like caged animals before authorities finally deemed it safe for the Pride festival to continue.

OC Pride eventually moved to Irvine but dissolved in the early 2000s. Credit the 2009 passage of Proposition 8, the state ballot initiative that outlawed same-sex marriage in California, with re-igniting the fire that led to the formation of the Orange County Equality Coalition and the return of Pride events in Orange County. They have since grown by leaps and bounds, and in 2012, OC Pride returned to its birthplace in downtown Santa Ana, where more than 8,000 attendees turned out (and, in some cases, came out!). Two years later, Orange County LGBT Pride Inc. was incorporated, and volunteer officers and directors have run OC Pride ever since.

Attendance surpassed the 20,000 mark a few years back, and the festival and other large and small events sponsored by OC Pride in non-Pride months have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charitable causes. About 25,000 festival-goers are expected in SanTana on June 22 for OC Pride 2019. Its theme, "Stand Up Stand Out," is "inspired by the exciting changes, milestones and accomplishments in the name of LGBT rights," according to organizers.

OC Weekly introduces you to just some of the many Orange Countians who have helped bring about those changes, milestones and accomplishments. Despite marriage equality, LGBTQ clubs in high schools and the rising acceptance of the LGBT community throughout the country, each freedom fighter will tell you why Pride remains just as vital now as it did 50 years ago at Stonewall and 30 years ago at the first Orange County festival.



PHOTOS BY FEDERICO MENNA



COURTESY OF BRIT CERVANTES

BRIT CERVANTES

OC Pride 2019 Grand Marshal

Growing up in South Orange County, Brit Cervantes didn't always know where he fit in. Assigned female at birth, he eschewed playing with dolls as a young child, preferring football and climbing trees with his brother. Later, Cervantes felt his body betrayed him, especially at the awkwardness that is puberty. At 16, he came out as gay to his family, but something about that didn't seem quite right nor was it immediately embraced by them (and South County ain't exactly the most LGBT-affirming place to be, either). Four years later, Cervantes understood himself as transgender and became an advocate.

It's an identity and calling he now deems a gift, especially with the OC Pride community that has become like family.

The feeling is mutual, with Cervantes being announced as this year's grand marshal for OC Pride, an honor bestowed largely thanks to his pivotal work as program coordinator for the UC Irvine Health Pediatric Gender Diversity Program. "It actually still feels pretty unreal to me," he says. "I never expected to be nominated, let alone elected as grand marshal. Normally, I'm watching the parade, so it'll be fun to be in it."

Started in January 2017, the Gender Diversity Program Cervantes promotes offers gender-affirming hormone therapy, puberty suppression, counseling, community connections and support to youth up to the age of 26. Three physicians are enlisted: a pediatrician, an endocrinologist and a psychiatrist.

"It's currently OC's only program dedicated to caring for transgender and gender-diverse youth," says Cervantes. "One of the most important parts of our program is provider education. We'll go out to different spaces both in and outside UCI, and we'll provide lectures and information on how best to care for trans and gender-diverse patients."

For Cervantes, that outreach comes informed by personal experiences, ones formed largely before the benefits of the program he now boosts. When speaking to medical providers or guidance counselors at schools, Cervantes identifies himself as trans. It's a personal choice, one not often afforded to transgender people at the doctor's office.

"When it comes to trying to access a medical transition, trans folks are forced to out themselves," he says. "We have no idea if physicians are going to be affirming or not, but we have to take the chance." And it's definitely a risk when refusal of care happens often for a myriad of reasons.

Advocacy is definitely in dire need. Cervantes found his own way through involvement with Trans Pride, the LGBT Center of Orange County and its Trans*itions Health & Wellness program. About three years ago, he had the opportunity to join the Gender Diversity Program. "I started with having a vision of serving my community," says Cervantes. "Now I get to do that for a living, and it's been a really incredible experience."

He'll be using the platform of being OC Pride's grand marshal to continue elevating issues from his community. That's just one reason among many why Pride still matters.

"It's important for people struggling with their identity to see that there's a community here, one that can be very loving and supportive," says Cervantes. "Being out and proud, if it's safe to do so, can be very life-changing. That's what Pride is." *(Gabriel San Roman)*



COURTESY OF ROBERT CASAS

ROBERT CASAS

Board President, Oranga County LGBT Prida Inc

Robert Casas checks all the boxes for someone raised in Orange County. High school in Buena Park—check! Cal State Fullerton—check! Worked at Disneyland as a performer and even took his act to Tokyo Disneyland Resort—whatever the word is for *check* in Japanese!

He is now a real-estate professional and tireless advocate for the welfare of animals, having raised money to fund everything from pet adoptions to animal-cruelty awareness. It's a background that serves Casas well as president of Orange County LGBT Pride's Board of Directors, where he focuses on creating a community through education, advocacy and celebration.

In April, Casas was recognized for his efforts in uniting the LGBT community with the Dennis & Judy Shepard Award. But such accolades do not fool him into believing he should slow down.

"Pride is still 100 percent vital and necessary today," he says. "We are faced with a lot of challenges on a daily basis, especially with the direction that our current administration has taken on the LGBT+ community. But what I have witnessed, as president of Orange County Pride, is a community full of support, love and perseverance, and I am proud to be part of it."

Asked to identify who springs to mind when thinking about the importance of Pride, Casas replies, "I feel like, for our festival in particular, it's a lot of our youth who are impacted the most because ours is a free event unlike other Prides in Southern California. It gives them an event to express themselves and feel safe doing so. When kids feel like they are accepted, they do much better in life once they become adults." *(Matt Coker)*



@MEEPAMENA

MANNY MURO

HIV Prevention Educator, RADAR

Manny Muro knows all too well there's no easy way to tell someone they're HIV positive. As the HIV Prevention Educator at the nonprofit organization RADAR in Santa Ana, he's had to do this. A lot.

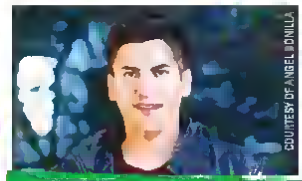
"I love my job, and it is very fun," the Huntington Beach resident says, "but you're also dealing with the person in front of you, and sometimes, you have to tell them information that they don't want to hear. Some people cry; some people get angry. You can live a long life with HIV, but you have to get treatment. I put myself in their shoes, and I act the way I'd want someone to tell me. You're not there for yourself—you're there for that person. Sometimes you have to take the rest of the day off. Sometimes you have to cry. But I'm actually lucky to be there. I've met so many wonderful people. I'm really grateful to be there."

Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, RADAR (which has just four employees, including Muro) provides HIV education and testing. It treats its clients with dignity and compassion. "Our priority is to reduce the transmission of HIV infection, specifically with Latino men who have sex with men," says Muro, who was named Mr. Gay Pride Orange County in 2016. "We only serve Orange County. We facilitate groups for people living with HIV. We don't just talk about HIV prevention, we talk about mental health, homophobia. We do STI testing, HIV testing [and] condom distribution and link people to care. My present role is linking people to prevention systems."

RADAR also does outreach. It had a presence at the AIDS Walk in Huntington Beach on June 1, and Muro emceed the event. It'll be at the upcoming Pride event, getting people tested. Sometimes, RADAR personnel go to bars and clubs in Orange County and provide free HIV testing.

"I wasn't fulfilled in my last job, which was in corporate America," Muro says. "I used to volunteer and then a position came up here. I thought, 'I'm just going to apply.' I didn't think I'd get the job, and then I ended up getting it. I had to take a pay cut, but I think I made the right decision."

Muro knows his job isn't easy—especially given that the latest data from the Orange County Health Care Agency shows that Santa Ana still has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the county. "That's why our office is in Santa Ana," he says. "There are a lot of reasons: lack of health care, lack of education, immigration status. There's also a large homeless population and drug use. Latino gay men have a one-in-four chance of getting HIV, and that's why I'm doing this." *(Anthony Pignataro)*



COURTESY OF ANGEL BONILLA

ANGEL BONILLA

Owner, WTF Events

Angel Bonilla has been planning and coordinating club events since he was 18 years old. At the time, the San Diego native had noticed that nightlife for LGBT crowds was sparse, so he started putting together his own to provide safe spaces for non-hetero party goers. After moving to Orange County in 2014, he found that options were limited here, too—save for a few hotspots such as VLVT Lounge and the Tin Lizzy.

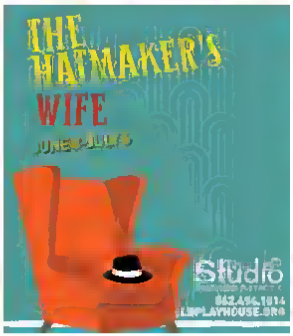
So he began organizing weekly dance parties through his promotion company, WTF Events, at Costa Mesa's now-defunct Shark Club, then expanded to other venues across Orange County, San Diego, Long Beach and West Hollywood. Featuring appearances by exceptional DJs and noted drag-queen performers such as *RuPaul's Drag Race* contestant Adore Delano, WTF quickly became a popular option for night owls wanting to revel in hot, thumping electronic sounds, strong cocktails, and, most of all, a safe space for LGBT folks to just be themselves. And with a gradual ascent into booking bigger DJs and big-name talents who weren't previously disposed to OC nightlife, even straight allies come forth to rave.

WTF is now the official event producer for OC Pride's grand after-parties, including one at Time Nightclub Saturday night with headlining DJ Laidback Luke, as well as a second Sunday night at the Circle in Huntington Beach. There, guests can rub elbows with OC Pride pageant winners and performers.

On the horizon, WTF will be producing events for Strut, an up-and-coming nightclub, and featuring more events at Time on Fridays and Saturdays—something unprecedented for LGBT raves when the now-30-year old Bonilla started putting together parties. As recently as six years ago, "club owners didn't allow gay events at their bars on Fridays or Saturdays because they thought it would affect their clientele," he explains. "But now, the community is growing, so owners are allowing more events. I wouldn't have thought we'd do events on a Friday or Saturday at Time, since it's OC's premier nightclub."

Bonilla still sees the importance of Pride and is working with Pride organizations to ensure dancers are partying with meaning. "Pride is important on so

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 10









many levels," he says. "It's a safe space for people to celebrate, be themselves, connect with old friends [and] new friends, show unity and show that it gets better." *(Aimee Murillo)*



TERRY REDDING

A.K.A. "ENDORA"

Entertainer, Chanteuse and Diva Hostess

Terry Redding has become a staple of Laguna Beach's LBGTQ community. Raised in the Mt. Hood area of Oregon, he started playing piano at age 5, received voice training during high school (where he was a theater nerd), and began performing as an adult in community theater. And a little more than four years ago, his drag alter ego "Endora" arrived at Main Street Bar and Cabaret, which is billed as the last gay bar in Laguna Beach.

For years, Laguna Beach was home to Orange County's largest gay population. It was also home to California's first openly gay mayor, Robert Gentry, who joined the City Council in 1982, was appointed mayor the following year and served in the office for three terms. Another Laguna resident, Fred Karger, says Gentry inspired him to run for president as a Republican in 2012.

But rising home prices shrank the city's LGBTQ community, with many relocating to the Coachella Valley. So Redding—and Endora—fill two roles in Laguna Beach, reminding people of a storied past while entertaining them in the present day. On Wednesdays, Endora hosts Drag Bingo at Main Street Bar, and on Fridays, you can see the lively, improvised cabaret show "Endora's Dress Rehearsal," featuring musical collaborator Tony Tanner.

As a Pride Festival fixture, Redding is a strong advocate for what the celebration stands for. "I'm very proud to be gay and in many ways, I feel my generation helped pave the way for youth being able to come out and be accepted at a much earlier age than my peers and I were able to," he says. "It was a lot different 34 years ago when I came out, I had friends whose families disowned them for being gay! We've come a long way and continue to fight for our rights." *(Wednesday Aya)*





ZEKE ORTIZ

Fashion Designer and Pride Superhero

Orange County designer Zeke Ortiz has cultivated a following within the drag scene for his expertise in tailoring and pattern-making to create a myriad of striking silhouettes and experimental costumes for the LGBTQ community.

His schedule is hectic. Not only does he sew for a lot of the painted queens throughout Southern California, but he also performs as Zai at Hamburger Mary's, Mozambique and the Executive Suite in Long Beach. "My drag persona is a Pride superhero come to life," he says.

A self-proclaimed cosplay nerd, Ortiz says he finds inspiration for his pieces in video games and comic-book characters. "[Zai is] a character I've created in my head," he explains, "and every time I get into drag, I feel like it's another opportunity for her to come out and have fun."

Ortiz's exploration into design began early in his drag career. He felt the outfits he wore didn't reflect his personal style, and he had a difficult time finding unique ensembles. So he started testing different looks, in the process developing his signature gaming-themed drag designs. While self-taught, Ortiz created his eponymous line with the intention of helping people feel confident and better able to fully express themselves.

As the festival approaches, he's wrapping up the final details on custom pieces commissioned just for Pride. "I'm excited to have way more looks out there than I did last year," Ortiz says. "I love seeing the reactions on people's faces when they see themselves in their costumes for the first time—it's the best feeling."

You can find Ortiz on Instagram @zeke.zai and @deZAIgnsbyZeke. *(Cynthia Rebolledo)*





OC PRIDE WEEK SCHEDULE

FEDERICO MEDINA

SATURDAY, JUNE 15
Silent Disco: OC Pride Week Kickoff. Grab a pair of light-up headphones, tune in and dance to one of three DJs. *8 p.m. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa*

SUNDAY, JUNE 16
Trixy Rene Burly Tips Revue Presents "Stand Up Stand Out." Sultry women, men and drag queens stage an amazing Pride cabaret show. *7:30 p.m. Original Mike's, 100 S. Main St., Santa Ana.*

MONDAY, JUNE 17
Wine & Paint Night. Have enough wine to get artsy and unlock your inner artist. *7 p.m. Decades Bar & Grill, 195 W. Center Street Promenade, Anaheim*

TUESDAY, JUNE 18
Drag Bingo Night. Play along with your favorite OC drag queens. *7 p.m. JT Schmids, 2610 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim.*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19
The Vixen Show Celebrates Pride. A pride-themed, cabaret-and-dinner show is followed by FLIRT night in the 21-and-older club. *7 p.m. VLVT Lounge, 416 W. Fourth St., Santa Ana*

THURSDAY, JUNE 20
To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar. Sashay into a special Pride Week screening of the camp classic. *7:30 p.m. The Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana.*

FRIDAY, JUNE 21
Flex Fridays. The hottest 21-and-older club celebrates Pride with go-go dancers, killer drinks and outdoor patio hijinks. *9 p.m. VLVT Lounge, 416 W. Fourth St., Santa Ana*

SATURDAY, JUNE 22
Orange County LGBT Pride. This year's event kicks off with a free parade and festival that are open to all ages and is capped by 18-and-older entertainment that requires a ticket. Expect music, dancing, comedy, drag and glitter everywhere at the free events. Nighttime performers include Deborah Cox, William, Kristine W, David Hernandez and Zee Machine. *Parade along Fourth Street between Ross and French streets, Santa Ana, 11:30 a.m., festival between Third and Fourth Street and Bush and French streets, Santa Ana, noon, performances in Yost Theater, Santa Ana, 6 p.m. $30-$150*

OC Pride Official WTF After Party with Laidback Luke! Clubbing with superstar DJs and *Ru Paul's Drag Race* Queens for those 21 and older. *10 p.m. Time Nightclub, 1875 Newport Blvd., Ste. B245, Costa Mesa*

SUNDAY, JUNE 23
OC Pride Official Closing Party at Blow Pop Sundays! Celebrate another successful Pride with entertainment, go-go dancers, and local and *Ru Paul's Drag Race* Queens. *9 p.m. The Circle, 8901 Warner Ave., Huntington Beach*

For more information, visit www.prideoc.com







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friday›
RIDIN' HIGH

KNIGHTS

fri/06/14

[SPORTS]

Just Dew It

Dew Tour

Skaters unite! The free (!) event at the Long Beach Convention Center "is an innovative contest series and content platform that brings together the world's best skateboarders, snowboarders, skiers, artists, brands, and fans in a celebration of creativity and style," according to the Dew Tour website. If you love action sports that aren't confined merely to summer (or SoCal) sports such as skating, then this is a great way to explore the different options and see what makes these talented athletes so different from their conventional counterparts.

MORE » ONLINE
OCWEEKLY.COM

Dew Tour at Long Beach Convention Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, (562) 436-3636; www.dewtour.com. Noon, also Sat.-Sun. Free —WYOMING REYNOLDS

[FILM]

Carrot Days

Zootopia

Lasso up those young'uns, folks, because another season of outdoor film screenings is starting. Today's feature is the fantastic, animated, Disney film *Zootopia*. Gmnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Idris Elba and Shakira voice anthropomorphic animals living in a metropolis who notice a mysterious mammal shortage affecting society. Altruistic rabbit cop Judy, whose main job is to write parking tickets, investigates. Show time starts at 8 p.m., but preshow entertainment, arts and crafts, demonstrations, and performers will precede the movie, while food trucks and a beer and wine garden will service adult patrons.

Zootopia at Carbon Canyon Regional Park, 4442 Carbon Canyon Rd., Brea, (714) 973-3162, www.ocparks.com. Preshow entertainment, 5 p.m.; screening, 8 p.m. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/06/15

[COMPETITIONS]

TOON TOWN

Toonz & Booze

Video games, beer and music go better together than we thought, so in celebration of that trifecta of awesome, today's event at the Wayfarer allows you to revel in all of those things at once. Test your skills at *Mario Kart* and other games at today's epic tournament, hosted by Chip from KROQ's Kevin and *Bean Show*. Also expect live caricature drawing, a cartoon art gallery and guests in cosplay; if you're feeling generous, buy some tickets for the charity raffle, with proceeds going to CHOC. Bands Go Betty Go, Bite Me Bambi, Noise of Rumors and others will take the stage, while frosty cold ones will be served at the bar. Come play with us!

Toonz & Booze at the Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St. Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039; wayfarercm.com. 7 p.m. $15. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

[FESTIVALS]

Don't Disturb This Groove

Smokin' Grooves

Over the past few years, the grounds around the *Queen Mary* in Long Beach have become *the* place to see killer niche festivals. With a slew of classic and contemporary R&B, Smokin' Grooves is the latest addition to that sterling list. One of the longest lineups so far this festival season features R&B OG heavyweights such as Usher, Erykah Badu, Common (an outlier here), T-Pain and The-Dream, as well as newer voices such as Kali Uchis. At a time when fest lineups get more generic, mundane and, frankly, snore-worthy, this one-day extravaganza offers a day of great music.

Smokin' Grooves at the *Queen Mary*, 1126 Queens Hwy., Long Beach, (877) 342-0738, smokingroovesfest.com. Noon. $150-$4,600 —WYOMING REYNOLDS

sun/06/16

[THEATER]

Look Who's Talking

The Hatmaker's Wife

The Long Beach Playhouse offers something a little different this month. Written by Lauren Yee (who has already won several awards this year), *The Hatmaker's Wife* is somewhere between Jewish folklore, time-hopping rom-com and really bizarre dream. The story follows a young woman who moves in with her boyfriend, after realizing this isn't the blissful domestic life she expected, the house's walls start talking—and tell her the tale of the previous inhabitants. It's weird, yes, but we're into that sort of thing.

The Hatmaker's Wife at Long Beach Playhouse, 5021 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 494-1014, www.lbplayhouse.org. 2 p.m. Though July 6. $14-$24. —ERIN DEWITT

[FILM]

Amorous Treachery

Divorce Italian Style

Who doesn't love a scandal? The Bowers Museum hosts a screening of Pietro Germi's Academy Award-winning *Divorzio all'italiana* (*Divorce Italian Style*). This 1961 Italian comedy/drama/romance tells the tale of Ferdinando (Marcello Mastroianni), who falls in love with his cousin Angela (Stefania Sandrelli), much to the detriment of his marriage to Rosalia (Daniela Rocca). Since divorce was illegal in Italy at the time, Ferdinando decides to manipulate Rosalia into having an affair, so he can murder her and expect a light sentence because of her adultery. Things prove more difficult when Rosalia proves to be stubbornly faithful to him.

Divorce Italian Style at Bowers Museum, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 567-3677, www.bowers.org. 2 p.m. $12; members, free. —SCOTT FEINBLATT



mon/06/17

[CONCERT]

Hear the Noise

Machine Girl

The answer to who Machine Girl are isn't as clear-cut as you think. The New York duo are more focused on releasing a steady stream of caustic electronic/noise songs than crafting an image. But a few seconds into any of their tracks, you'll be swept away by the clashing of drums and software-generated sounds that continuously reverberate with reckless aplomb. They're wreaking havoc tonight on a tour stop at the Constellation Room, watch them unleash mayhem to the masses.

Machine Girl at the Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com. 9 p.m. $12-$15. —AIMEE MURILLO

tue/06/18

[ART]

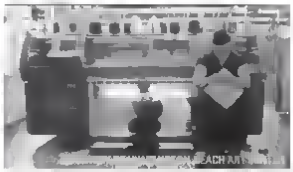
Connect the Dots

'I Will Not Make Any More Boring Art'

The small, round, colorful dots that renowned conceptual artist John Baldessari used to cover the faces of subjects did their work to make his point, as well as make him famous as one of the last century's most engaging and innovative, not to mention funniest visual and multimedia anti-storytellers. Introducing or removing elements always creates new, provocative syntax and narrative as shown in his most famous performance: cremating a decade's worth of his own work, then putting the ashes in an urn. (His body of work—get it?) His oeuvre explains itself, inviting viewers into the concept or joke.

"I Will Not Make Any More Boring Art: Prints by John Baldessari" at Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Dr., Laguna Beach, (949) 494-8971, lagunaartmuseum.org. 11 a.m. Through Sept. 22. $5-$7. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

wed/06/19



[ART]

CLOTHES ENCOUNTERS

'Frau Fiber's Mission in America'

Fashion and art collide in this thought-provoking exhibit. Carole Frances Lung, who goes by the moniker Frau Fiber, has long been concerned with the ethical processes of garment manufacturing, and through her artistry and sewing workshops, she has helped others take notice, too. This exhibit features one-of-a-kind garments and installations that Lung made to contemplate the present state of clothing production in the world. And today, Huntington Beach Art Center also hosts a special pop-up at which guests can bring in clothes that need tailoring, paying according to the price determined by spinning the "Wheel of Wages," which shows how little garment makers around the world are paid for their labor. You just might question the fashion industry altogether after your visit.

"Frau Fiber's Mission in America" at Huntington Beach Art Center, 538 Main St., Huntington Beach, (714) 374-1657, www.huntingtonbeachartcenter.org. 10 a.m. Through July 6. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

[CONCERT]

Great Pretenders

Just Pretending—A Pretenders Tribute Band

The Pretenders are often regarded as among the most indelible rock groups of the '80s, as Chrissie Hynde and her band mates melded soulful lyrics with powerful guitar riffs. Reacquaint yourself with the band's catalog when tribute group Just Pretending performs at Boisserane Park as part of Buena Park's ongoing outdoor concert series. With singer/guitarist Diana Lozano stepping in to perform as Hynde, this group will wow you with their energetic stage presence and mastery of the Pretenders' sound and spirit. Bring a beach chair and blankets for the moments when you're not dancing and rocking out to the music.

Just Pretending—A Pretenders Tribute Band at Boisserane Park, 7650 Dale St., Buena Park, (714) 562-3871, www.facebook.com/justpretendingsocal. 7 p.m. Free.
—AIMEE MURILLO

thu/06/20

[CONCERT]

Hold On Tight

Jeff Lynne's ELO Live 2019

The synth-pop greatness of Jeff Lynne's iconic Electric Light Orchestra (ELO) returns to SoCal this month—the band's first national tour since 1981—with a 19-song set that reminds us how Lynne's groundbreaking musical soundscapes forever imprinted on America and across the world. Tickets are steep, courtesy of corporate scalping provided by Ticketmaster, but even those in the nosebleed sections can feel the melancholic power of "Telephone Line" and the ecstatic jolt of "All Over the World" (thanks, *Xanadu*!). Expect all the big hits, including "Evil Woman," "Strange Magic," "Mr Blue Sky" and more. Break the piggy bank and hang from the rafters, if you have to—Lynne is a legend you don't want to miss.

Jeff Lynne's ELO Live 2019 at Honda Center, 2695 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 704- 2400, www.hondacenter.com. 8 p.m. $55-$179. —SR DAVIE S



[FILM]

NOT A PHASE

Pick It Up!

In the '90s, third-wave ska permeated everybody's eardrums in Orange County thanks to the heightened popularity it gained via a strong local scene and heavy airplay on mainstream radio. And just as suddenly, it fell out of favor—but it continues to spark joy today among diehard fans and local bands. The documentary *Pick It Up!*, directed by Taylor Morden as a labor of love for the genre, dives deep into the history of the third wave of ska, with a short intro on the first and second waves and their influence. How the ska scene became so suddenly popular and its subsequent vanishing from the radio is also explored, with some thoughtful commentary provided by Tom Dumont of No Doubt, radio personality Tazy Phyllipz, Mike Park of Skankin' Pickle and others. It first screened at the Newport Beach Film Festival, but you can catch it again tonight!

Pick It Up! at the Art Theatre, 2025 E Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5436, arttheatrelongbeach.org. 7 & 9:30 p.m. $14.
—AIMEE MURILLO











WINNER OF PENN & TELLER FOOL US



SECRETS & ILLUSIONS

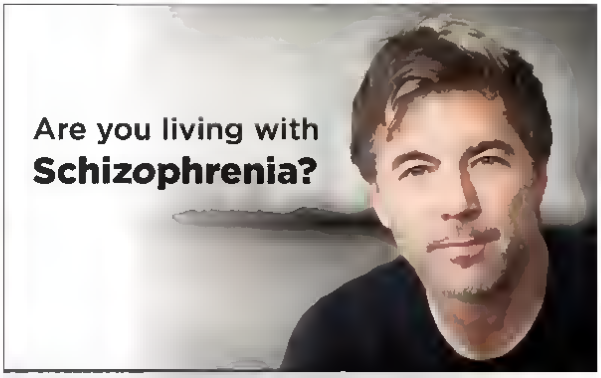
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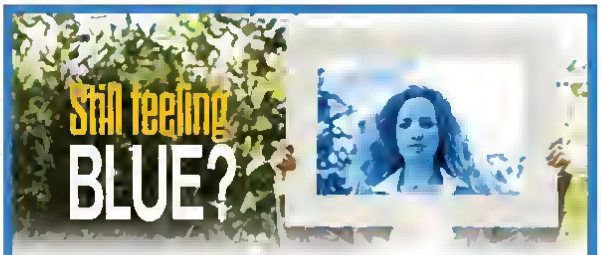


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WHERE THE CARTS AT?

PHOTOS BY EDWIN GOEI

You Dim Sum, You Lose Sum

Michelin-starred Tim Ho Wan finally arrives in Irvine

BY EDWIN GOEI

A Taiwanese co-worker had something to tell me. He said he'd just gone to a new restaurant I'd be interested in. But before he even got the chance to pull the business card out of his wallet, I knew he was talking about Tim Ho Wan. I told him I'd been anticipating the opening of its first West Coast location since it was announced last August. As Hong Kong's most famous export since Jackie Chan, Tim Ho Wan's reputation as the "World's Most Inexpensive Michelin-Starred Restaurant" precedes it. I was obsessed. When Tim Ho Wan finally opened in early May, replacing Capital Seafood at Irvine's Diamond Jamboree, there was word of waits as long as those at Din Tai Fung when it debuted at South Coast Plaza.

Since I hadn't yet tried it myself, I asked my co-worker what he thought of his visit. "The service was great," he said, recalling how unusually attentive the staff was for a Chinese restaurant. And despite it being dinnertime when he went, he was able to order dim sum. To him, this was tantamount to McDonald's finally offering breakfast all day. It was, he warned, a very limited selection. And there were no roving carts. Everything he wanted to eat had to be marked on a sushi-style order sheet.

But what he noticed most was how young the crowd around him was. "I was at least twice as old as everyone else there! And I didn't see any grandpas reading Chinese newspapers!"

I went to Tim Ho Wan for myself that evening. As it was a Monday night, there was on wait. After being seated, I surveyed the room and noted how different it was from Capital Seafood. There were no family-style round tables; instead, most were two-seaters. And rather than its predecessor's in-your-face, Vegas-like opulence, Tim Ho Wan was understated, with muted birch and subtle splashes of jade green. Nothing was ostentatiously Chinese except for a few subliminal motifs that blended into the background.

But as anticipated, there was dim sum for dinner. The usual suspects were present and accounted for, including sumai, hargow and the barbecue-pork-filled buns for which Tim Ho Wan is acclaimed. The latter is rightfully lauded as the best thing on the menu. A thin, crispy sugar shell akin to Japanese melon pan or Mexican concha covered the buns. When I bit into one, my brain couldn't decide whether I was eating a glazed doughnut or something savory made of pork.

There were also dim sum items that weren't dim sum items, such as a metal bowl of rice steamed with a layer of minced beef and topped with a fried egg. Its presence on the menu was so puzzling I ordered it out of curiosity. But when the dish arrived, I realized it was nearly impossible to share because the loose rice grains were awkward to pick up from a plate with chopsticks.

A wonderfully tender braised beef brisket with daikon was also atypical of a dim sum restaurant. Yet the more I ate of the actual dim sum, the more I realized I was using a saucer of the hot chile oil condiment as a crutch. It compensated for the lack of flavor in the har gow, sumai, and shrimp-and-chive dumplings. Even the steamed pork ribs—usually a flavor-packed heavy hitter with salted black beans—tasted underseasoned. And then there was the steamed rice roll filled with pasty minced beef. The noodle and filling were indistinguishable from each other; I had to rely on a liberal dousing of soy sauce to make it palatable.

If the steamed dumplings were inexplicably dull, the fried items were only slightly better. The egg rolls filled with egg white and shrimp were airy, and the deep-fried eggplant smeared with shrimp paste had a satisfying springiness. But the bean curd with shrimp and avocado tasted of nothing other than greasy batter. It was still better than the worst offender: a dessert of batter-covered milk sticks that gushed so much oil that it made an OC Fair deep-fried Twinkie seem like health food.

There was some reprieve from the grease in the form of a wobbly steamed-egg cake, a refreshing tapioca-pearl dessert with pieces of halved grapes, and, of course, the tea, which cost an additional $5.25 since I opted for the non-caffeinated chrysanthemum instead of the standard pu-erh because I didn't want to be up all night.

The millennials around me didn't seem to care, nor did they blink that the dim sum was nearly twice as expensive here as elsewhere. But as I saw them scrolling through Instagram on their phones, I felt a bit wistful for those newspaper-reading grandpas and when dim sum could only be had in the morning.

TIM HO WAN
2700 Alton Pkwy., Irvine, (262) 888-8820, timhowanusa.com. Open daily, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Dim sum, $3.95-$8.50

DRINK OF THE WEEK

» GREG NAGEL



PHOTOS BY GREG NAGEL

Rummy Nerd Herder

When Oga Garra opens a bar on the planet Batuu (in Disneyland's new Galaxy's Edge), all facets of her crime-boss bling are put on display. ABInBev beer brands? Check. Tito's Handmade Vodka? Check. *Über*-sweet, fruit-juice-heavy cocktails? Check. I guess diabetes is common in galaxies far, far away.

Of all the prebatch, on-tap concoctions, Yub Nub most warmed my Ewok-like fuzzy belly, even though it could probably be served at Ariel's Grotto. It's as bright pink as a cosmopolitan and has festive Malibu pineapple rum, Sailor Jerry's spiced rum, citrus and passion fruit, all garnished with passion fruit seeds. Although it drinks like a rummy cosmo, the Malibu dominates like a Vader neck lift. Even though the cocktail gask inside of me cringed slightly, my inner *Star Wars* gask was a little more excited, and I finished the damn thing before flying the effing *Millennium Falcon*.

You can even get it served in a souvenir mug for only $42! Oh, Disneyland.

DISNEYLAND
1313 Disneyland Dr., Anaheim, disneyland.disney.go.com.



ROLLING PAPER 710

PUBLISHES
07/04/19

OCWEEKLY
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ERIN DEWITT

WELCOME TREAT
COURTESY OF STEEL CUP CAFE

Good Timing

Connectivity rules at Steel Cup Café

Steel Cup Café may still be in its soft opening phase, but the events leading up to the restaurant's opening had been in play for years. When Alenni Nemitz introduced her friend Nicholas Stoks, whom she grew up with in rural Minnesota and reconnected with in college, to her boyfriend Marc Chitwood, who had just moved cross-country weeks before, they became solid friends. Eventually, the trio moved from Minneapolis to Long Beach, and the business ideas started forming.

"Almost immediately, we started talking about opening a restaurant together," explains Chitwood, the café's executive chef. "I've known that I wanted to open my own place ever since culinary school, and Nick has been in the restaurant industry for a really long time. He has a lot of experience in the front-of-house that I don't have."

"Opening a restaurant with Marc seemed like such an obvious decision," adds Stoks. "We both bring something to the table that the other person lacks."

And as of last month, that obvious decision became a reality. In a tiny retail strip on Stearns Street and Lakewood Boulevard, just north of the traffic circle, Steel Cup Café's grand opening will take place June 21-23.

The menu focuses on locally produced, sustainable ingredients from small-scale farmers, with items made from scratch every day. The owners avoid single-use plastic utensils and such, instead opting for biodegradable, plant-based alternatives. And on the rare occasion there's leftover food at closing time, the team donates it to a local homeless shelter.

For lunch, there's a selection of salads, including a kale Caesar, plus house-specialty sandwiches such as the Beef and Bleu—thin slices of rosemary roast beef, mixed greens, pickled red onions and wild mushroom duxelle, plus a mild house-made blue cheese spread, piled thick on grilled sourdough.

Fresh pastries and cookies, as well as a rotating weekly special item, line the front counter.

LongBeachLunch

» ERIN DEWITT

There's an outside communal patio and a cozy nook on one side of the building with a couch and a shelf full of books. It's quiet and quaint right now, but come grand-opening weekend, the restaurant will be filled with live music, artists, vendors and more. "The community is really excited about it, which is fun to see," says Stoks. "We're already planning future events at Steel Cup—we want this to become a regular thing. It's important to us to be a place where the neighborhood can come together."

Monday through Friday, breakfast is served starting at 5 a.m., with lunch service kicking in at 10 a.m. and lasting until 3 p.m. But first-timers will want to visit the café on the weekend for the notable brunch options not otherwise available during the week.

"My take on chicken and waffles is something I am really excited for people to try," Chitwood says. The signature dish features three Frenched chicken drumettes that are dipped in waffle batter and fried until golden, then served with jalapeño-mascarpone butter and a smoked-jalapeño-and-blackberry-maple syrup.

There's also banana bread French toast sticks, which offers house-made banana bread sliced into rectangles and given the French toast treatment, then served with powdered sugar and maple syrup.

"When we were coming up with the menu, it was important to us to be creative and fresh, while preserving the nostalgia of a traditional cafe," says Chitwood. "Many of our specials incorporate that same idea—they're dishes you've probably had before, but never like this.

"Opening this café together has been really amazing," he adds. "We both knew we were capable of doing this, but it still feels a little surreal."

STEEL CUP CAFÉ
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GREG NAGEL

Delicious Memories

Hidalgo's Cocina & Cócteles' cochinitas pibil invokes another time

EAT & DRINK THIS NOW
» GREG NAGEL

Why do certain smells unlock certain memories? Case in point: Sitting in front of me at a window-side table inside Hidalgo's Cocina & Cócteles, with cars whizzing by on Harbor Boulevard in downtown Fullerton, was a plate of cochinitas pibil. The last time I had it was at least a decade ago at a friend's backyard graduation party, and now I recalled the smell coming from a wide-brimmed, woven-bamboo basket filled with at least 50 neatly folded banana leaves tied shut with twine and steaming in the evening air. After disrobing the citrus-achiote-crusted pork and dropping it in a warm tortilla, I had garnished it with pickled red onions, then doused it heavily with bright-green El Yucateco sauce. Proper.

Hidalgo's version has that same vibe, but instead of bright-violet pickled onions, a tomatillo pico de gallo livens up the earthy-citrusy braised hunk of pork. The pork is juicy and easily shreddable, and when folded in the taro, it goes incredibly well with the Head Ancho cocktail, a tequila-based drink that was developed a few steps away at the Cellar, which happens to be known for some of the best drinks in the county.

If you had been to Hidalgo's under the old ownership, the new menu doesn't feel like Hidalgo's 2.0. Instead, this feels like a new genre, where flavors are put through tube amps and wah-wah guitar pedals to achieve interesting dimensions. Not only do the dishes seem to be bigger and bolder, but they're also notably less expensive, with most items hovering between $11 and $13.

Appetizers such as the bacon-wrapped shrimp, which might be good naked on a plate, are amped up to 11 with dabs of creamy goat cheese and citrusy Mayan raw honey and served on chimichurri and Manzano sauce. Brothers Antonio and Chelo Muñoz are true madmen in the kitchen. If I were on death row, I'd order five plates of this and die a happy man.

Dustin Adams and Monica Lynch still manage the bar program, which leans heavily on agave, citrus and chiles. Specialty cocktails run $13, while classics such as a tequila old-fashioned or a Paloma cost $12. Wines tend to stick to the equator, meaning you'll get a more pronounced fruity character from each.

If you visit on a Tuesday, a two-taco plate can be matched with a white or red sangria, Mexican beer, or margarita for just 10 bucks. Maybe I should call some of my old friends from that party and set up an evening to catch up soon—Hidalgo's is perhaps the perfect spot.

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Lost Gay Days

How Pat Rocco's 1968 film *Disneyland Discovery* made way for a gay liberation

BY AIMEE MURILLO



PAT ROCCO/UCLA ARCHIVES

Disneyland's scorched-earth protection of its brand and properties hasn't stopped it from becoming an unauthorized shooting location for many guerrilla filmmakers—including more recent, notable entries *Escape From Tomorrowland* and *Exit From the Gift Shop*. But neither of those films compares in importance to a 1968 film by a gay filmmaker named Pat Rocco. His *Disneyland Discovery* (originally titled *Discovery* or *Ron and Chuck in 'Disneyland Discovery'*) features two young gay men holding hands, exchanging longing looks, and checking out the rides and attractions.

The fact that two gay men are openly displaying affection within a heteronormative public space in a wildly homophobic time holds up as a heroic feat for scholars and audiences alike. "Disneyland epitomized middle-class, heterosexual, nuclear-family leisure," explains Finley Freibert, a visual studies Ph.D. candidate at UC Irvine. "[*Discovery*] remains significant not only because it represents the gay liberation politics from its time, but it also anticipates future events and films that centralized Disney properties as more recognizable today."

Rocco, a New York native who moved to LA as a kid, is an LGBT legend in his own right for his erotic filmmaking and activist work. He was one of the leading organizers of the first LA Pride festival and parade in 1970 and started Hudson House, a shelter for homeless gay men and women. His film career began when he answered a wanted ad in the *Los Angeles Free Press*, an underground newspaper, for short films on nude male models, which he captured in 8 mm. He graduated to shooting longer films with storylines in 16 mm, selling copies to interested patrons through ads posted in the *Free Press*. Business boomed thanks to wide interest.

Rocco's film output by the time he filmed *Discovery* were mostly shorts depicting scantily clad muscular men, comedies or romantic films with storylines based on his own relationships. Some didn't have overtly gay overtones, and none carried sound or dialogue, since 16 mm wasn't equipped to hold an audio track. Eventually, the owner of the Continental Theaters cinema chain, Shan Sayles, contacted Rocco to see if his films were good enough for public viewing at his Los Angeles locale, the Park on Alvarado Boulevard. It was one of the few well-established theaters that regularly screened gay programming or films with gay sensibilities such as Billy Wilder's *Some Like It Hot*. Rocco's films were accepted, and Sayles enlisted him to make more films, including *Discovery*.

He, his two actors (who have never been identified, though scholars speculate they were either friends of Rocco's or actors found through word of mouth) and an assistant took a 16mm film camera and a tripod to the (now) Gayest Place on Earth. Without permission or notice, they created a romantic storyline about two young gay men meeting for the first time at Disneyland and falling in love, leading to a nude love scene in Tom Sawyer's Island (the only part not shot at Disneyland).

The 30-minute feature entranced viewers as it circulated among gay screening rooms across Southern California, including the gay-friendly Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), which had chapters in LA and OC. It's considered one of Rocco's most popular films, often shown as part of a programming block of the director's features. MCC founder the Reverend Troy Perry even requested to screen it in Europe.

But once Disneyland lawyers found out about *Discovery*, they pressured Rocco to trim the film down by removing shots of signs and identifiers of the theme park. But it was all for naught: Even with a shorter running length of 15 minutes, any viewer can clearly tell the location is Disneyland. Rocco later said in a 1983 oral-history interview with Jim Kepner for the ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives that the park's lawyers didn't go through with a lawsuit because it would have brought more notoriety to the film and blown up its public profile. "I almost wish they had now," Rocco quipped. Since then, tripods are not allowed at Disneyland.

Technically speaking, *Discovery* is quite impressive. Rocco was clearly adept at constructing a narrative solely through visuals, and the meticulous attention to detail and variety of shots from different angles complements the action between Ron and Chuck. The film stock carries a blue tint that washes over the movie as the viewer is treated to the spectacle that is Disneyland's many rides: the *Mark Twain* Riverboat, the Matterhorn, It's a Small World and the Mad Tea Party's spinning tea cups. The music, however, roughly transitions between show tunes and the soundtracks from animated Disney features, including "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes" from *Cinderella* and "When You Wish Upon a Star" from *Pinocchio*.

There's a hazy, dreamlike quality about it all, especially during the lovemaking scene, for which different shots of the two naked men kissing and holding each other are superimposed over one another. Otherwise, their public displays of affection are quietly open throughout their time at the park and go largely unnoticed by the crowds surrounding them. The film ends with them exiting Disneyland while holding hands.

In the '70s, Rocco slowed his erotic film work because of popular demand for more hardcore porn, but he would continue to document the gay Los Angeles scene's demonstrations, marches and parades. Many of his softcore films, including *Discovery*, were donated to UCLA's Film & Television Archive in 1983, where they are occasionally screened in retrospectives and gay independent film blocks. Rocco moved to Hawaii with his partner, David Gbee, in the mid-'80s, then relocated to Mount Baldy in the late 2000s before passing away of a heart condition in 2018. His legacy is cemented as one of the most iconic filmmakers of erotic gay films, with *Discovery* preceding Disneyland's Gay Days by 30 years.

"The films [themselves] made me kind of a liberationist because of how they were done—the fact they were up front, that they were the first really overt gay films with nudity in a public theater, and that they had something to say that was positive," Rocco said. "I've had a number of people tell me, 'I came out because of your films.'"

AMURILLO@OCWEEKLY.COM

Thoughts and Prayers

BY MATT COKER

Halston. The fashion designer became a household name in the 1970s, only to see his empire facing obliteration by the Wall Street era. *Thurs., June 13 at Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m. $9.50-$12.50; Edwards Westpark 8, (844) 462-7342. 12:25, 3:20, 6:20 & 9:20 p.m. $10.20-$13.20; also at UA Long Beach 6, (844) 462-7342. Fri.–Thurs., June 20, 12:20, 3, 5:40 & 8:20 p.m. $10.05-$12.95.*

The Spy Behind Home Plate. Moe "Moe" Berg played on five major league teams during baseball's golden age and was a spy for the DSS during World War II. *Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Thurs., June 13, 12:15, 2:35, 5, 7:25 & 9:45 p.m. $9.50-$12.50.*

Echo in the Canyon. Andrew Slater's new rockumentary looks at how the early Laurel Canyon music scene influenced the sounds of today. *Thurs., June 13 at UA Long Beach 6, (844) 462-7342. 12:20, 2:50, 5:10 & 7:40 p.m. $10.05-$12.95, Edwards Westpark 8, (844) 462-7342. 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30 & 9:50. $10.20-$13.20; Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. 1:15, 3:30, 4:50, 5:40, 7:45 & 9:55 p.m. $9.50-$12.50.*

The Fall of the American Empire. A shy, insecure delivery truck driver tries to dispose of bags of cash he picked up at a crime scene while bumbling police detectives investigate and a gang leader searches for his missing money. In French with English subtitles. *Regency South Coast Village, (714) 557-5701. Thurs., June 13, 12:30, 3:30, 6:45 & 9:40 p.m. $9-$12.*

The Biggest Little Farm. John Chester's new documentary follows a young couple through their successes and failures in developing a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside Los Angeles. *Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Thurs., June 13, 2:15 & 6:55 p.m. $9.50-$12.50.*

The Terminator. A cyborg (Arnold Schwarzenegger) is sent from the future to kill a young woman named Sarah Connor (Linda Hamilton). But a protector (Michael Biehn) also arrives. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs.–Sat., June 13-15, 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

The Dead Don't Die. The dead rise from their graves to terrorize a peaceful town. *Various theaters; www.fandango.com Thurs.–Thurs., June 13-20. visit website for locations, times and ticket prices.*

SB. San Francisco General Hospital's nurses emphasize humanity and consideration of holistic well-being in the midst of the devastating AIDS crisis and ensuing public panic. *AMC Fullerton 20, (714) 992-6962. Thurs., June 14, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Fri.–Sun., 10:45 a.m., 1:15, 4, 6:30 & 9 p.m. $6.99-$12.99; AMC Orange 30 at the Outlets, (714) 769-4288. Thurs., June 13, 7 & 9:45 p.m., Fri.–Sun., 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m. $6.99-$13.79; also at Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Opens Fri. Call theater for days, times and ticket prices.*

Heavy Water. This look at big-wave surfer Nathan Fletcher begins with his grandfather, a pioneer of Oahu's North Shore, and follows through to Nate's current relationship with mammoth breaks. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., June 13, 7 p.m. $10.50-$12.50.*

9 to 5. Three savvy female workers (Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton) endure an evil, chauvinistic boss (Dabney Coleman) until a freak accident, uh, ties him up and prevents him from doing his duties. *The Frida Cinema; thefridacinema.org. Thurs., June 13, 7 p.m. $15.*

Rahman 1400. A man whom doctors say will die soon conspires with his friend to inherit money for his family. In Farsi with English subtitles. *Starlight Triangle Cinemas; starlightcinemas.com. Thurs.–Sun., June 13-16, 7 & 9 p.m. $6-$12.*

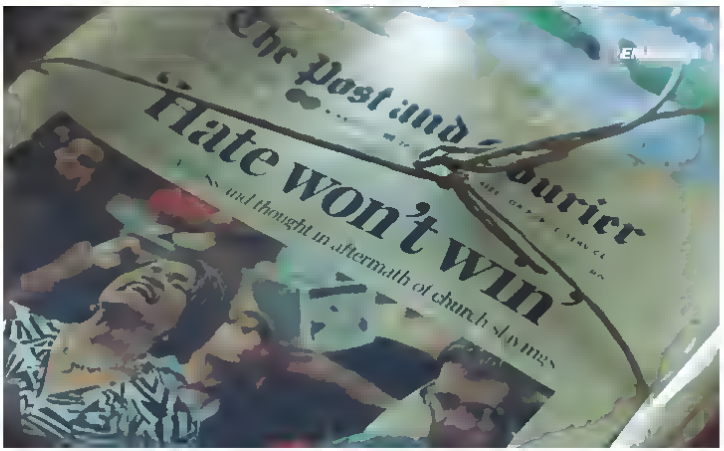
Pavarotti. Enjoy intimate interviews, historic performances and never before-seen footage. *Edwards West park 8, (844) 462-7342. Thurs., June 13, 7:10 & 10:10 p.m., Fri.–Thurs., June 20, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40 & 9:40 p.m. $10.20-$13.20; also at Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Opens Fri. Call theater for times and ticket prices.*

The Shining. Jack Nicholson stars as a writer who brings his wife (Shelley Duvall) and son (Danny Lloyd) with him to look over the elegant Overlook Hotel deep in the Colorado Rockies in the wintery off-season. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri.–Sun., 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Klanken van oorsprong (Sounds of Origin). A documentary about the Dutch-Indonesian influence on modern pop music in the Netherlands. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Sat., 11 a.m. $15.*

Jurassic Park. Things go screwy on an island where cloned dinosaurs roam free in a wildlife park. *Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort & Marina, (949) 729-3863. Sat., 7:30 p.m. $10.*

Field of Dreams. An Iowa corn farmer (Kevin Costner) hears voices that encourage him to build a baseball diamond in his fields. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Sun., 1 & 4 p.m., Tues., 4 & 7 p.m. $6.25-$12.50.*



FATHOM EVENTS

Total Recall. Paul Verhoeven's 1990 violence-laden, terraforming thriller was inspired by Philip K. Dick's short story *We Can Remember It for You Wholesale*. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sun.–Tues., 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Emanuel. A new documentary on the families of the Emanuel Nine, the African American churchgoers who were gunned down by a 21-year old white supremacist during a prayer service in Charleston, South Carolina. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Mon. & Wed., 7 p.m. $12.50.*

The Met: Live in HD: Roméo et Juliette. Tenor Vittorio Grigolo and soprano Diana Damrau play the star crossed lovers of this Shakespeare adaptation. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Wed., 1 & 7 p.m. $12.50.*

Conan the Barbarian. A boy is forced into slavery after seeing his parents and entire village wiped out by a savage warlord (James Earl Jones). *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Wed.–Thurs., June 20, 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Her. A romantic drama-comedy develops between a lonely heart (Joaquin Phoenix) and a fully conscious AI device (voiced by Scarlett Johansson) designed to meet his every need. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Wed., 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. On a boat trip to Paris, Dorothy (Jane Russell) falls for a private detective (Elliott Reid) hired to make sure Lorelei (Marilyn Monroe) isn't a gold digger after the money of millionaire Gus (Tommy Noonan), while Lorelei tries to set Dorothy up with a royal diamond merchant (Charles Coburn). *Regency South Coast Village, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $9.*

Return to Earth. Anthill Films gives viewers that feeling of total immersion you get on a bike ride through the lush coastal jungles of Oahu: the dust of Utah's otherworldly landscapes and the untouched mountainsides of Patagonia. *Edwards Irvine Spectrum, anthillfilms.com. Wed., 8 p.m. $12.*

A Star Is Born. Bradley Cooper plays a seasoned musician who discovers and falls in love with a struggling artist (Lady Gaga). As her career takes off, he fights his inner demons. *Fullerton Public Library, (714) 738-6327. Thurs., June 20, 1 p.m. Free.*

Christopher Robin. Now a family man living in London, Christopher Robin (Ewan McGregor) receives a surprise visit from his childhood pal Winnie-the-Pooh. *Orange Public Library & History Center, (714) 288-2420. Thurs., June 20, 2 p.m. Free.*

Drum Corps International Tour Premiere. Live performances by top ensembles from Marching Music's Major League are beamed into theaters. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., June 20, 5:30 p.m. $15.*

Pick It Up! Ska in the '90s. The rise and fall of third-wave ska music of the 1990s in the U.S. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Thurs., June 20, 7 & 9:30 p.m. $14.*

DC Pride Presents: *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar.* Three Manhattan drag queens (Patrick Swayze, John Leguizamo and Wesley Snipes) road-trip to Los Angeles for a national drag competition. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., June 20, 7:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

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JEFF ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES

Ever-Lovin' Summer

A refreshing revue of the season's theatrical offerings

BY JOEL BEERS

The dog days have turned into the cat's pajamas (not the first tired metaphor in this piece, alas). The summer used to rival December's procession of lame feel-good holiday plays for the worst stretch in OC theater, but no longer. One of the most interesting sets of plays to ever grace OC stages are on tap the next three months, a testament to the continuing evolution of our better houses and the continued growth of two homegrown festivals.



HEIDI NEWELL

Fellowship! An online review will run whenever someone gets around to it, but if you've finally gotten over that three-part abortion of Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit* and feel the need to revisit something that truly reflects J.R.R. Tolkien's singular world, don't check out this musical parody of the first installment of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. But if you like silly, stupid, gleefully politically incorrect and hilarious theater with some of the finest local talent around, then please do. *Maverick Theater, 110 E. Walnut Ave., Fullerton, (714) 526-7070, www.mavericktheater.com. Through June 30. $15-$30.*

Into the Woods. Even for those of us who need to feel better about ourselves by claiming we aren't as dumb as the idiots who like musicals, it's hard to not adore—yes, adore!—Jaroes Lapine/Stephen Sondheim's quite grown-up re-imagining of folk tales that cautions us to be careful what we wish for, for we might end up with an asshole in the Oval Office. What—it's *not* about that?! *STAGEStheatre, 400 E. Commonwealth, Fullerton, (714) 525-4484; stagesoc.org. Through July 21. $30-$32.*

Ragtime. It will be interesting to see what the Chance does with this 1998 musical adaptation of the 1975 novel. The Broadway debut featured about two dozen actors, exploding fireworks and a working Model T, its visual extravagance juxtaposed against a story that revealed the fault lines of race and economic inequity in the first decade of the 20th century. The Chance keeps (second overworked metaphor) knocking big musicals such as this out of the park, and for this, it's lassoed top-notch director Casey Stangl (hence said metaphor—geddit?), who has helmed shows at the La Jolla Playhouse and South Coast Repertory. *Chance Theater, 5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, (888) 455-4212, chancetheater.com. Previews start June 28, opens July 6. Through July 28. $25-$49.*

New Swan Shakespeare Festival. The New Swan doesn't do Shakespeare the reverent, staid boring way, nor does it compensate by making it bigger or more "contemporary" to make it relevant. As artistic director Eli Simon says, "New Swan doesn't concern itself with spectacle or over-the-top entertainment—our theater is too small and intimate for that. We see Shakespeare's plays as opportunities to examine what really makes people tick, why they are motivated to behave as they (we) do. Let's call it a series of journeys into the heart of the human condition." This year, the troupe tackles *The Merchant of Venice* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. *New Swan Theater at UC Irvine, 4002 Mesa Rd., Irvine, (949) 824-2787; newswanshakespeare.com. In repertory, July 3-Aug. 30. $13-$57.*

Richard III. Brian Kojac, who founded STAGES in the late 20th century and has influenced the artistic paths of more actors and directors in North County as anyone, hasn't done much theater since the first time he adapted this Shakespeare play in 2009. But anyone who has seen him act in the handful of shows he's done the past five years at the Maverick knows he hasn't missed a step in terms of performing, and it's safe to say anyone who chooses to both direct *and* star in a Shakespeare history play, as Kojac is doing with this one, still has ample thespian *cojones*. *Maverick Theater, www.mavericktheater.com. July 12-Aug. 17. $10-$20.*

The Who's Tommy. An ambitious show for any theater—especially one for a community theater, even if it is a slice above the rest—but director Michael Serna is one of the best local directors around, so this is intriguing. *Costa Mesa Playhouse, 661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, (949) 650-5269, costamesaplayhouse.com. July 19-July 28. $25.*

OC-Centric. For the first time since its inaugural festival nine years ago, the county's only local playwright festival is producing four one-acts. Co-producer Eric Eberwein says they are all "uncommonly fine one-act plays that tell uncommon stories, serious and funny plays about friendship, integrity, identity and community, notable in their diversity." *Chapman University's Moulton Center Studio Theatre, 300 E. Palm Ave., Orange, (714) 902-5716, www.oc-centric.com. Aug. 15-Aug. 25. $12-$23.*

Three Letter Words. The Wayward Artist, OC's newest troupe, rolls the die with an original work, Michael Mejia's "serio-comic drama of water-cooler gossip, complex gay relationships, and a deeply human story of love and loss." *Grand Central Arts Center, 125 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (657) 205-6273; www.thewaywardartist.org. Aug. 22-Aug. 31. $15.*

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

June 14-20

BOTTLE LOGIC BEER PAIRING. This exceptional foodie event unites brews with a four-course meal, plus a yummy dessert course. Fri., 7 p.m. $65. Chapter One, the modern local, 227 N. Broadway, Santa Ana. (714) 314-4287, chapteronetml.com.

INTO THE WOODS. Stephen Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics to this beloved musical about a baker and his wife who travel into the woods to break a witch's curse. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m. Through July 21. $30-$32. STAGEStheatre, 400 E. Commonwealth Ave., Ste. 4, Fullerton. (714) 525-4484, stagesoc.org.

TIKILAND TRADING CO. Lovers of Polynesian culture and all things tiki will rejoice in this themed marketplace that includes food vendors, artists, musical entertainment and more. Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $6-$25. Heritage Museum of Orange County, 3101 W. Harvard St., Santa Ana. (714) 540-0404, tikilandtrading.com.

NEWPORT BEACH ART EXHIBITION. The one-day juried show features more than 250 works ranging from sculpture to photography to painting. Sat., 1 p.m. Free. Newport Beach Civic Center, 100 Civic Center Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 717-3802, www.newportbeachca.gov.

BONFIRE & CHILL. Liv Collective offers a relaxing day at the beach while you partake in holistic and networking activities. Sat., 3:30 p.m. $55. Huntington City Beach, 103 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, www.canlivsystems.com/wecanonmix.

SIP AND THROW ADULT POTTERY NIGHT. Beginning ceramicists will get a quick demo of throwing on a wheel, then guests can decorate their works while imbibing the alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverage of their choice. Sat., 6 p.m. $55. The Treasury, 421 Almond Ave., Orange, atthetreasury.com.

AN EVENING WITH PHYLLIS FENDER. Authors Fender and Dr. Randall Bell discuss their new book, *Leo Fender: The Quiet Giant Heard Around the World*. Sat., 6:30 p.m. $10-$15. Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave., Fullerton, (714) 738-6545, cs.fullerton.ca.us.

"SCULPTURES BY GWYNN MURRILL". The Los Angeles-based artist displays works of humans and animals spanning her 40-year career. Open Sun.-Tues. & Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs., 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Through Sept. 22. $5-$7. Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Dr., Laguna Beach. (949) 494-8971, lagunaartmuseum.org.

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TRAVIS TRAUTT

Desert Daze Does It Better

Phil Pirrone makes moves to preserve the mission of his annual festival

BY NATE JACKSON

There's a moment every year at Desert Daze when Phil Pirrone stands onstage with a poncho and a guitar, his long curly locks flowing over his shoulders as he looks out at the loud, love-bred, psychedelic world he created. Before ending the set with his band JJUUJJUU, he makes it a point to thank the friends and fans who helped him build it, as he's done on his own terms in today's infinitely cluttered festival landscape. Though most promoters are rarely seen at the massive events they throw, Pirrone's commitment to the integrity of Desert Daze means being a part of it in every way possible.

"It's our moment to let everyone know that we're in this together," Pirrone says. "This isn't a faceless thing; it isn't just a business venture—it's a mission. And we're all on it."

Last month, the country's largest concert promoter, Live Nation, continued its Southern California expansion by acquiring Spaceland Presents (along with the Echo and the Echoplex), which was partnered with Pirrone's promotions company, Moon Block. To preserve his autonomy and the independent spirit of Desert Daze, Moon Block ended its partnership with Spaceland Presents and started working with Red Light Management and continue its partnership with the Knitting Factory to produce the eighth annual festival. Recently, Pirrone announced that Desert Daze would not be part of the sale of Spaceland to Live Nation in any way. "People are happy to hear it, absolutely," Pirrone says. "I think Desert Daze represents something, not only to us, but also to the community of [the event]. We have this integrity compass, and that's our audience, our community. Who knows what the future will be? But this feels like the right move right now."

With the new partnership, Red Light brought a number of veteran festival producers to the team, including legendary music executive Stuart Ross and Brad Sands, who helped to develop some of the country's most prominent festivals. The Culver City-based music-management company will also work closely with Moon Block, which oversaw the festival's creation and growth from an 11-day, DIY bacchanal at Dillon's Roadhouse in Desert Hot Springs to a renowned event in places such as Mecca and Joshua Tree, hosting the likes of Iggy Pop, My Bloody Valentine and Mercury Rev. This year, Desert Daze returns to Lake Perris with the Flaming Lips, an immersive, 3D experience from Flying Lotus, and rare performances by Stereolab, Parquet Courts, the Black Angels and Fred Armisen.

Despite the changes, Pirrone retains his role as festival director and lead curator. "I'm not on vacation by any means," Pirrone says. "I'm still driving the ship philosophically and creatively."

Pirrone says that Ross, who developed more than a few industry-standard innovations, is a big part of the team and a great mentor who believes in his vision. "One of the things that resonated with me and told me we were in the right place was when Stuart said, 'Look, what you're doing with Desert Daze is difficult because you're doing something that no one else is doing, and it takes digging a little deeper and thinking outside the box,'" Pirrone recalls.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in the festival's ever-progressing lineup. From the outset, Desert Daze had an ethos of inclusion, opening its stages to groundbreaking artists. Fittingly, the Flaming Lips' set will celebrate the 20th anniversary of their album *The Soft Bulletin*, hailed by fans and critics as one of their most genre-defying, intricately arranged albums. And this year's roster reminds us that the festival favors pushing boundaries over catering to any particular genre. "I see [this year's lineup] as an extension of what we've already been doing," Pirrone says. "There's some purists out there who think we're a psych fest, [but] we're so much more than that."

With the festival's philosophy, business partnerships and musical identity advancing nicely, Pirrone's primary concern now is creating a quality environment for the fans. That includes such logistical details as speeding up traffic and ingress at the front gates, improving the VIP experience, and strengthening cellphone service in the fest's remote location. "We're moving onto the next era of working with more professionals and more industry-standard vendors, cutting fewer corners without sacrificing any of the energy or spirit of the event whatsoever," Pirrone says.

That spirit was definitely tested last year in the fest's then-new location when impossibly slow traffic conditions combined with pouring rain and lightning forced headliner Tame Impala to cancel their set after the third song. Many who'd waited for hours in traffic lines voiced their outrage on social media as Pirrone and his team scrambled to find solutions to keep the festival alive. "There was a part of me that thought the whole festival was going to be canceled that weekend. When I heard we got the go-ahead from the fire marshal to open up on Saturday, I was kind of in disbelief," Pirrone recalls.

Luckily, on the second day, the bad weather had subsided, so the festival could continue as planned.

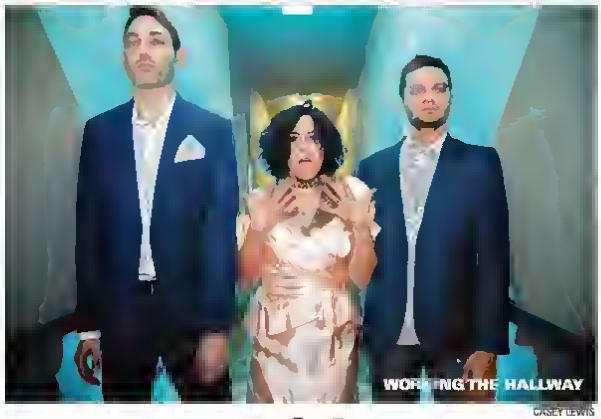
Though he's had plenty of obstacles to deal with before, as Pirrone planned this year's event, there were times he wasn't sure whether Desert Daze would survive. "When Spaceland went with Live Nation, it wasn't instantaneous that we would be partnered with Red Light," he says. "There was a period of time when I didn't know what was going to happen. ... I truly didn't know if we were going to have a festival this year."

For now, Pirrone says, he's doing the best he can to make the right moves and preserve the mission of the festival he set out to create—and with a lot more help and guidance, he's a big step closer to making that happen. "Everything is real now, instead of it just playing out in my mind and on my laptop and on conference calls," Pirrone says. "[Desert Daze] is real, and it's in the world, and people are experiencing it, and it's happening. And I just couldn't be more grateful. So we're gonna take that gratitude and make sure that this is the best Desert Daze ever."

NJACKSON@OCWEEKLY.COM

DESERT DAZE

at Merene Beach at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area, desertdaze.org. Oct. 10-13. Visit the website for more details.



CASEY LEWIS

Masters of Contrast

Asi Fui polish their identity on *Parallelogram*

BY STEVE DONOFRIO

In less than five years, Asi Fui have established themselves as one of the most ambitious bands out of Long Beach. Their 2016 EP, *LIVE Fernet Session*, showcased the group's ability to produce tracks that are just as groovy as they are atmospheric, as well as the spontaneity that has become their trademark.

"Those were basically the first songs we wrote as a band," says drummer Ryan Reiff. "On top of that, we recorded it live in our friend JP Bendzanski's living room." This affinity for live, uninhibited energy is what fuels Asi Fui's sound, as they often extend their songs into improvised jams during live performances.

This month, the band released their first full-length album and their most refined work yet, *Parallelogram*. "In the beginning, a lot of our stuff was more jammy and improvised," explains vocalist/bassist Tatiana Velazquez. "I think since we've been playing together longer, we're kinda growing and structuring everything a little bit more."

"We've been concentrating on almost producing as we write the songs, so that by the time we get to the studio, we know exactly what we want to do," adds Reiff. "At the same time, though, we'll always have an element of improvisation."

For an example, look to the album's first single, "Honey Falls," which was released with an accompanying music video in March. Reiff and Velazquez hold down a relentlessly solid groove, while guitarist Miguel Vazquez and (now former) keyboardist Jacob Connelly play textural, evolving melodies. Velazquez's smooth, soulful voice is at the center of the mix, asking, "Who are you these days?"

The video was also conceptualized and written by Asi Fui. "It was just, like, a super-DIY video that Tati had an idea for. Miguel and Jacob hand-made the bear masks we wore," says Reiff. "It was a cool, fun video we did."

"It's kind of like a mini movie," adds Velazquez.

"Honey Falls" is also a perfect example of what listeners can expect to hear on *Parallelogram*. Sonically and lyrically, Asi Fui are masters of contrast, with songs that are both otherworldly and relatable. Even the album's title points to this sense of dualism. "That's the name of one of the songs on the album," Velazquez says, "and it stems from the idea of two people living parallel lives."

On Friday, Asi Fui will celebrate the release of *Parallelogram* at Alex's Bar with support from underground hip-hop icon 2MEX, legendary producer DJ Nobody, and local favorite Rudy De Anda.

Despite Connelly's recent departure, the band have been writing new material, incorporating some changes. "Jacob's playing is on every single song [on *Parallelogram*]," explains Reiff. "His sound is definitely a big part of the record. There are no hard feelings or anything, but now we're ready to try something else."

"We kind of figured out that it gives Miguel a chance to free up his playing and fill even more space," Reiff continues. "With just the three of us and Miguel being, other than Tati's vocal, the only other real melody machine, it allows him to spread out."

Adapting to just about any situation, Asi Fui are an unstoppable force.

ASI FUI

perform with 2Mex, Rudy De Andy and DJ Nobody at Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com. Fri., 8 p.m. $8. 21+.

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ASI FUI, 2MEX, RUOY DE ANDA, DJ NOBODY 9 p.m., $8, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292; www.alexsbar.com

CALISAMBA 8 p.m., $10, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

MY LIFE WITH THRILL KILL RULT 9 p.m., $20, 21+. La Santa, 220 E. Third St., Santa Ana. (657) 231-6005; www.lasantaoc.com

THE RED PEARS, THE LICKS, PLAYBOY MANBABY, A RCHER OH 9 p.m., $15, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Saturday

THE EXPANDERS 9 p.m., $12, 21+. La Santa, 220 E. Third St., Santa Ana. (657) 231-6005; www.lasantaoc.com

GLEN MATLOCK, ROSE AND PATRICK OF LIMBECK 9 p.m., $20-$25, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach. (562) 434-8292; www.alexsbar.com.

GO RETTY GO, BITE ME BAMBI, NOISE OF RUMORS, TURBULENT HEARTS, THE TWO TENS 7 p.m., $15, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com

NO VACATION, OKEY OOKEY 10 p.m., $15, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com

SMORIN' GROOVES FEST 11 a.m., $150-$250, all ages. Queen Mary Events Park, 1126 Queens Hwy., Long Beach; smokingroovesfest.com.

SNOW THA PRODUCT 9 p.m., $20, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Sunday

CHRIS WEBBY, GRIEVES, LOCKSMITH, EKOH 9 p.m., $15-$65, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

KRANIUM, JADA KINGDOM 9 p.m., $20, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Monday

JAKE TITTLE, CHARITY SWIM, JORDIE SAENZ, DERER TED 7:30 p.m., free, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

MACHINE GIRL 9 p.m., $12, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Tuesday

THE CATCHING, CEMETERY SUN 9 p.m., $10-$25, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

GROUP PHOTOS, LONELY CHIEF, ENGLISH BREAKFAST, MEANOERTHALS 9 p.m., free, 21+. La Santa, 220 E. Third St., Santa Ana. (657) 231-6005; www.lasantaoc.com

Wednesday

ALBUM ATTACK TAKES ON SUPERGRASS' *I SHOULD COCO* 8 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com

JAMILA WOODS, DUENDITA 9 p.m., $20-$60, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Thursday, June 20

ALLAN RAYMAN 9 p.m., $20, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

ANOYOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD 9 p.m., $20, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292; www.alexsbar.com

JAZZ FESTIVAL 2019 'STRIBUTE TO RAY CHARLES. 7:30 p.m., $30-$150, all ages. Muckenthaler Cultural Center, 1701 W. Malvern Ave., Fullerton. thamuck.org

JENNY & THE MEXICATS 9 p.m., $15, 21+. La Santa, 220 E. Third St., Santa Ana. (657) 231-6005; www.lasantaoc.com

LOCAL NATIVES 9 p.m., $36, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

MATTHEW LOGAN VASQUEZ, WALKER LUKENS, PR NEWMAN 9 p.m., $12-$15, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

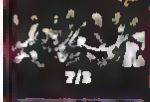
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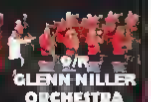

8/7 THE RACON RROTHSRS

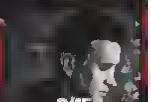

9/15 THE DRIFTERS

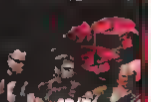

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T/5	MICKT DOLEHZ
7/6	REATLES VS ETONES - A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN
T/12	THE PETTY BREAKERS
7/13	LOE LONELT BOYS
T/1B	JEFFERSOH STARSHIP
T/1B	HENRY KAPONO
7/2D	HINDER
T/23	TED HUGEHT
T/24	TED NUGENT
T/2B	TACHTLET CREW - TNE TITANS OF SOFT ROCH
T/27	SKELETON CREW (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)
7/28	STRUNZ AND FARAN
B/1	JAMES MCMURTRY
8/3	HONK
8/7	THE RACOH BROTNERS
B/9	BUBLIMED
8/15	THE PLATTERS w/ SPECIAL GUEST THE DRIFTERS
8/16	THE FARULOUS THUHDERBIRDS
8/1T	LA GUHS
8/21	JUSTIN NAYWARD
8/2B	SAVOT BROWH
8/30	CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER
8/31	WILD CHILD (TNE OOONS TRIBUTE)
B/9	SINBAD
B/B	GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA
9/12	ADRIAN BELEW
9/14	LED ZEPAGAIN (LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE)

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R/20	NERMAN'E HERMITE	10/2E	DESPERADO
9/21	HERMAN'E NERMITS	11/1	OINGO ROINGO FORMER MEMRERE
9/22	GARY PUCKETT	11/2	TYRONE WELLE - THE LIFT ME UP TOUR
R/27	QUEEN NATION	11/E	EUPER DIAMOND
9/2E	QUEEN NATION	11/1D	DAVID WILCOX
10/4	TRAENCAN SINATRAS	12/7	BLUE OYSTER CULT
10/E	GEOFF TATE'E OPERATION: MINOCRIME	12/2D	OARY No Ho NOEY
10/E	DON MCLEAN	12/21	AMRROSIA
10/11	DOKKEN	12/22	DAVID RENOIT CNARLIE RROWN CNRIETMAE
10/13	JUDY COLLINS	2/23	RURTOH CUMMINGS
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Shop Around

I'm a straight cis woman in my early 40s and a single mother. I have not dated or hooked up with anyone in years. While I miss dating, the biggest issue right now is that my sex drive is off the charts. While watching porn and masturbating once my child goes to sleep helps, I really want to get well and truly fucked by a guy who knows what he's doing. I could likely go to a bar or on Tinder and find a man for a one-night stand, but I'm hesitant to do that. To add to my complicated backstory, I have a history of childhood sexual abuse and have had only two partners in my whole life, one of whom was abusive. My past sexual forays have not been particularly satisfying, in part because of my lack of experience and comfort indicating what I do/do not like, as well as some dissociation during the actual act. I keep thinking it would be easier to find a sex worker to "scratch the itch," as presumably a male sex worker would be more open, sex-positive and skilled. But I have no idea how I might go about it or what the procedure or etiquette is. And I am fearful that I could get arrested given the illegality of soliciting in my conservative southern state. Any advice for a girl who wants to get fucked but is not sure how to make that happen in a safe-ish space?

Single Mom Absolutely Stupid Horny

"In the recent past, the answer would have been Google," said John Oh, a Sydney based male sex worker for women. "But in a post SESTA/FOSTA world, that route is now unreliable—especially in the United States, where advertising on the web is far more difficult."

The "Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act/Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act" is a 2018 law that was crafted backers said to fight sex trafficking. It made it a crime for web platforms to knowingly or unknowingly allow someone to post a sex ad. The law is so vague that platforms such as Craigslist, Tumblr and Facebook purged sexually explicit content in an effort to prevent sex workers from basically being online at all. SESTA/FOSTA's backers claim they want to protect women, but in reality, pushing sex workers out of online spaces (where they could more effectively screen clients, share safety tips with one another and organize politically) made sex work more dangerous and has led to more sex trafficking.

But one much pilloried but still popular platform is bucking the anti-sex-worker/anti-sexually-explicit content trend. "Twitter is still a (mostly) safe place for sex workers and I have not heard of law enforcement using it to entrap potential clients," said Oh.

Since no one knows how long Twitter will allow sex workers to use its platform, you might want to get started on that search now, SMASH. And while sex work is work, and it's work many people freely choose to do, not everyone is good at their job. Since your experiences with unpaid sex weren't that great, I asked Oh for some tips on increasing your odds of finding a skilled male sex worker. "Sadly, in places where sex work is criminalized, it's harder to find a suitable male sex worker," said Oh, "especially for someone who needs extra-special care due to trauma. I expect that for SMASH...traveling to a place where sex work is not criminalized would not be practical, but that might be an option for others."

If traveling to Australia, where Oh lives and has been doing sex work for nine years (legally), is unrealistic, Oh suggests chatting with sex workers in your area—but not, at least at first, the male ones. "Her best option may be to talk to female sex workers on Twitter and ask them for a recommendation," said Oh. "This has two benefits. The first is that female workers in her general area will have local knowledge. The second is that female workers are generally very careful about endorsing male workers. So if a few female workers suggest a male sex worker, there is a high likelihood he will be safe, capable and professional. But if SMASH goes this route, tipping the female workers who help her out would be polite—otherwise, this would amount to asking for unpaid labor."

SavageLove

» DAN SAVAGE

An older guy at my gym tentatively inquired if he could ask me an "inappropriate question." I told him he could. I'm straight, he's pretty obviously gay, and I figured he was going to hit on me. Then he said the question was "sexual in nature" and was I sure it was okay? I said yes. He asked if he could buy the shoes I wear to the gym once they're worn out. I know why someone would want my old shoes—he's obviously masturbating with them—and that's fine; everyone has their weird thing. Two quick questions. Isn't what he did risky? And how much should I charge?

Smelling Nikes Entertains A Kinky Senior

It was definitely a risky ask, SNEAKS, but you're probably not the first guy he's approached. I imagine he has a hard-earned feel for who's likely to react positively and who's not (and a few canceled gym memberships along the way to show for it). And I'd say $20 would be fair. It's not the full cost of replacing the shoes—he's a shoe perv, not a fin sub—but it's enough to be worth your while, and it reflects the value of your old shoes. Not on the open market, but to *him*.

A straight couple I know that "dabbles" in kink recently visited a famous leather/fetish/bondage store with deep ties to San Francisco's gay community. They purchased some simple bondage implements that they could just have easily ordered online from any number of stores that aren't institutions in the gay BDSM subculture. I don't think straight people should be barging into spaces that aren't theirs to purchase items that were not created for them. I am not gay myself, but I try to be a good ally, and part of being a good ally is holding other straight people accountable.

Respect Queer Space

You've got to be kidding me with this shit, ROS. Donald Trump banned trans people from the military, the Trump administration has made it legal for doctors and EMTs to refuse to treat queer people, it's allowing federally funded adoption agencies to discriminate against same-sex couples, and it just shut down promising research into a cure for HIV (much to the delight of religious conservatives, who have always and still want us dead). And heaping insult on injury, ROS, Trump "celebrated" Pride Month with a tweet—and you're not only worried about a straight couple buying a little gear in a gay leather/fetish/bondage shop, but you're also coming to me with this shit expecting *praise*? If a couple of straight people wandering into a gay-owned business that's legally obligated not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation—a law that protects queer people too—is what you're wasting your time on right now, ROS, with everything that's going on, you're a shit ally and a worse human being.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), Mistress Matisse commands you to listen to the S&M show. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org.*





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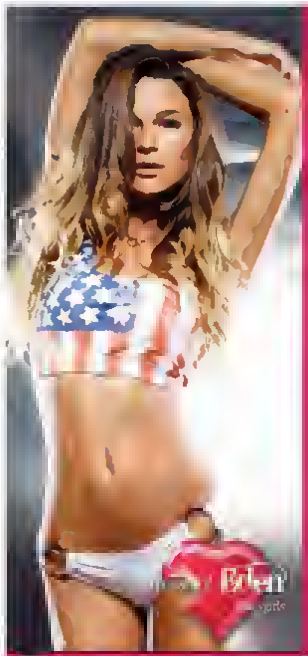
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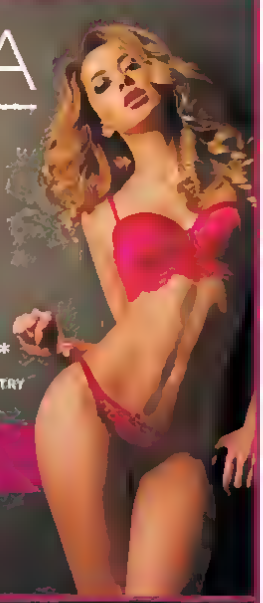
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On March 31, at approximately 3:30 p.m. in Los Angeles, a man entered the parking lot of rapper Nipsey Hussle's flagship clothing store Marathon, and fired several shots at a group of men that included the Crenshaw native. Born Ermias Joseph Asghedom, he was known for his activism and staunch belief in ending the gun violence that had plagued his South Los Angeles neighborhood for decades. His community work, along with his involvement with organizations such as Vector 90, a co-working space aimed at helping underrepresented entrepreneurs, will continue to inspire his peers long after the coward who murdered him is forgotten.

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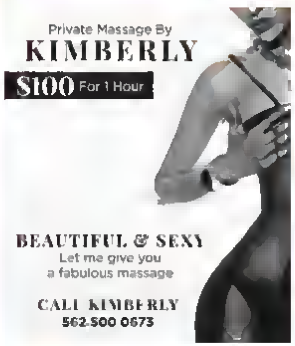

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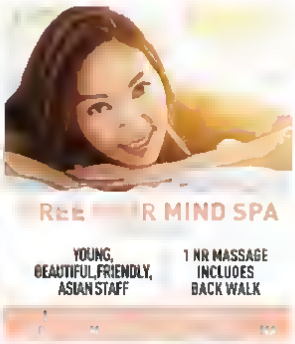

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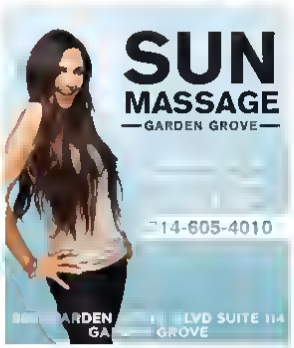

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Party for One (and All)

How to go solo to Laguna Beach Pride and still have a fab time

BY LISA BLACK

"Did Dana Rohrabacher ever bring one of these over?" asked Congressman Harley Rouda at Laguna Beach Pride Fest on June 1.

"No!" roared the celebrants, their loudest response at that point.

According to Craig Cooley, president of Laguna Beach Pride! 365, he and fellow board members Jonathan Cohiflower and Michelle Volz expected the first certificate they received that night on behalf of the California State Assembly. But Rouda's nod from the House of Representatives took them by surprise.

Before presenting the certificate of special congressional recognition—and after a brief yet slightly manic introduction by Laguna Mayor Bob Whalen, who declared him "the most productive guy in the first hundred days, getting more than nine bills passed out"—Rouda (D-Newport Beach) took the mic, looking dapper in a plum-colored jacket over a black shirt. Then he gave an update on things in D.C.

"This idea that all Democrats want to do is investigate is just fake news," he said, speaking quickly as if in sync with what the DJ had been spinning. "I will tell you that at the end of last week, the House had passed 115 bills, the vast majority of them bipartisan, and the Senate has only acted on 20 of them. Mitch McConnell and the Republican-held Senate are forbidding our country and our communities from moving forward, and we know that we got to keep fighting to get bills through like ..." And here his voice rose, then paused for suspense before calling out loud and clear, as if expecting everyone to hit the dance floor: "HR 5, the Equality Act!"

Co-sponsored by the congressman and now in the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, House Resolution 5 aims "to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity and sexual orientation, and for other purposes."

State Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine) and Rouda are both Laguna residents. While Petrie-Norris, who beat a two-time Republican incumbent in the 74th Assembly District in November, sent a surrogate, the two politicians' messages were similar, both thanking Laguna Beach Pride! 365 for fostering inclusivity in their hometown.

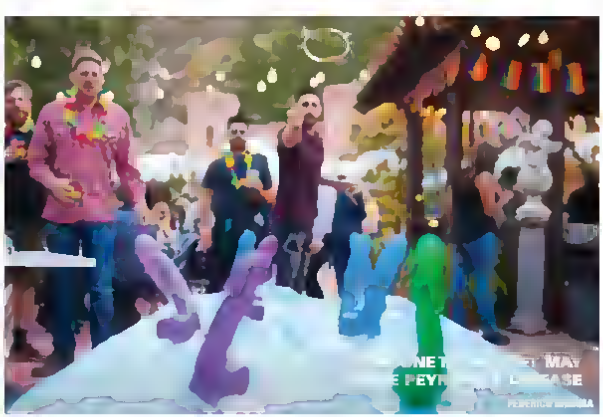
The three-day celebration included hikes in Laguna Canyon, a bingo brunch and Sunday's West Beach party on the sand and under the June gloom. Who was invited? According to organizers, "Everyone—families, singles, gay, straight, locals and visitors alike, love is love is love!" Indeed, I saw one child and one dog attending the party at the old Art-a-Fair, tucked against the steep canyon walls where fire goats were busy chewing up spring weeds.

All that political business transpired quickly and in high spirits. Then MC duties returned to Wilhelmina Caviar, who used the B-word as a term of endearment. "You're the winner, bitch!" was how she cheered fellow queen Nomi B. when doling out raffle prizes. Attired in sparkling black with magnificent shoulder wings and a towering fascinator, G Licious G had trouble wrangling all her tips, with bills dropping to the floor. "Collect your money, girl," Caviar encouraged.

The entertainment pavilion had a runway stage backed by DJs, and out front were go-go platforms that anyone could use for snapping pics when the pros weren't gyrating. By nightfall, it transitioned to a dance party. Multicolored lasers cut through smoke machine-generated fog and the occasional sparkler fountain. Onyx Black could be seen twerking in a tie-dyed, thong-cut leotard under a globular crystal chandelier/disco ball. By then, the queens had changed from their elaborate performance ensembles into party wear, sweetly posing for photos with anyone who asked.



LISA BLACK



The event photographer was a natural at getting people to grin broadly, capturing the joy and friendliness pervading the party. He was thrilled by how many people showed up from Long Beach and all over, in support of "bringing the gay back to Laguna." Those words were the impetus behind this second Pride Festival. In 2017, a group of businesses, residents and then-Mayor Toni Iseman gathered to discuss how to "bring the gay back" and formed the Laguna Beach LGBTQ Heritage & Culture Committee, which supports Laguna Beach Pride! 365.

Cosplay was minimal—this wasn't a parade, after all—but a dog mask encasing a guy's head and a red velvet-clad king in crown and cape in the classic storybook or King Vitamin style both caught my eye.

The funniest performer I encountered worked the food stall for Them Balls, where you could get chicken meatballs layered on tots or fries in the following flavors: B-Boi Q, Buffalo, Banh Mi or skewered with waffles. She kept patrons apprised on their orders' progress: "Your balls dropped, you've reached puberty!" "Jessica, get your hot balls out of my hands!"

More colorful, yet inedible balls beckoned nearby at the cock-ring toss. I saw no vulva-related games or lollipops. But Long Beach singer/songwriter Jennifer Corday began her set by asking, "Where are the lesbians?" They gathered as she played a few originals and a bizarre selection of covers, from "Sweet Caroline" and "Leaving On a Jet Plane" to "Whole Lotta Love."

I'd met Brett and Anthony on the trolley—at least I think his name was Brett (it was so loud on the trolley, I could barely hear him)—and Brett astonished us by naming Corday's oldies after just a note or two. "It's like my parents are here," he chuckled, explaining how he was so quick to name that tune.

Before leaving, I checked out the vendors: Catmosphere was giving away cat-ear tiaras, and Caribee CBD offered soft-gel capsules (I think I ended up with four or five packets). The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) booth also had giveaways, including totes, temp tattoos and stickers featuring its logo of a yellow equal sign on a blue square. I picked up "Transgender Visibility: A Guide to Being You," a practical and encompassing pamphlet for anyone of any age.

If there was any mention that June 28 will be the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, essentially the first Pride, I missed it. But as I read the pamphlet later, I remembered that LGBTQ people of every color fought police in Greenwich Village half a century ago, and I'm glad the HRC is still "fighting for change."

Considering I went alone to a party at which I knew no one, I had a fabulous time. I even met the *Weekly*'s new art director, Federico Medina, there to shoot the cover for this, his first issue. I had told my buddies from the trolley I wouldn't leave without saying goodbye, but I couldn't find them. So, goodnight, Brett and Anthony, wherever you are!

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